

# The Blur

A Publication of

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.  
c/o 641 Kismet Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115-1114



FIRST CLASS MAIL

AMATEUR RADIO: WHEN NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS FAIL!



# The Blur

April 1998



So where's the starting line?

Public Service Since 1949



## VOLUME 48

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

**Amateur Radio License Examinations** are held on the *first* non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 PM-SHARP!

## CLUB INFORMATION

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

**Internet Web site:** <http://www.comcat.com/pmrc>

**E-mail:** [pmrc@comcat.com](mailto:pmrc@comcat.com)

**2-meter repeater:** 147.03 MHz (Main site Roxborough receiver requires no PL, but transmits 91.5 Hz.)

**Additional off-site receivers require the following subaudible tones:**

**Southampton** 131.8 Hz—**Center City** 103.5 Hz—**Lansdale** 114.8 Hz—**Broomall** 85.4 Hz

**70-cm repeater:** 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

**Simplex:** 147.51 MHz

**24-hour club information at W3AA:** 215-448-1139

## STATIONS

**W3AA** - (Formerly W3TKQ) The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I  
The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate it.

**W3AA** packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz: [w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam](mailto:w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam)

**W3AA** e-mail: [w3aa@f1.edu](mailto:w3aa@f1.edu)

**W3EM** - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

**W3QV** - 147.03 MHz repeater - Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

## OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** W3CH, Russ Stafford, 14 Eagleville Road, Eagleville, PA 19403 610-631-3401 x902

[russ@ndj.com](mailto:russ@ndj.com)—[w3ch@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam](mailto:w3ch@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam)

**VICE PRESIDENT:** AA3EP, Charlie Weigand, 91 Moyer Road, Pottstown, PA 19464 610-323-1050

[aa3ep@aol.com](mailto:aa3ep@aol.com)—[aa3ep@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam](mailto:aa3ep@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam)

**SECRETARY:** N3PVO, Carol Sebzda, 761 North Hills Avenue, Ardsley, PA 19038 215-884-5518

[n3pvo@aol.com](mailto:n3pvo@aol.com)

**TREASURER:** K2BN, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Dresher, PA 19025 215-542-5991

[k2bn@agtannenbaum.com](mailto:k2bn@agtannenbaum.com)

## DIRECTORS

W3BBB (98); WU3I (98); W3RM (98); W3GQD (99); KB3IV (99); N3XKE (99); W3STW (A)

## COMMITTEES

Archives: W3IIN  
Audit: KE3OP  
Awards: AA3EP  
**Blurb** Folding: WB3KOH&J  
Budget: K3KUD  
Directory: WB3KOJ  
DX: NU3Y  
Education: W3CH  
Emerg. Coord.: N3XKE  
Field Day: WU3I  
Membership: W3LEN  
Net Control: KB3IV  
Program: AA3EP  
Public Service: AA3EP  
Publicity: W3RM  
Refreshments: W3AOK  
Repeater: W3BBB  
Skywarn: N3LCV  
Special Events: N3WCO  
Sunshine: WU3I  
TVI: W3VVS  
VE Program: ND3Q  
W3AA: KB3IV  
Welcome: K3CJ  
Youth: KE3ZY

## Blurb STAFF

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2113 Edgehill Drive, Furlong, PA 18925  
215-794-7623

[W3IIM@Haring.ORG](mailto:W3IIM@Haring.ORG)

Artist: N3QIE (484<sup>th</sup> issue)

Labels: WB3KOJ

**DEADLINE:** To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the General Meeting!

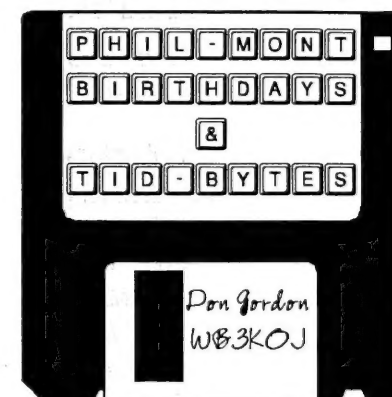
## NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET

## NUMBER 4

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 06 Ed Faye - W3RCE  
Pat Rush - WT3X  
08 Jackie Chedeville (XYL W3GQD)  
15 Joan Clifford (XYL W3UY)  
Bob DiPasquale - WB3KAB  
17 Len Kravitz - KD2CR  
Albert McFadden - N3XEI\*  
Ned Schlichting - N3EMN  
18 Patricia Sullivan (XYL N3QMH)  
19 Hal Grace - W3HFY  
Carl Owens - WB0CPR  
21 Laura Lusky (XYL W3APD)  
22 Russ Miller - K3NYN  
25 Fred Lamberti - KE3NP  
27 Bunny DiPasquale (XYL WB3KAB)  
Carl Vold - W3SGR  
28 John Paulson - N3VIF\*  
Rik Richenbach - WE3D  
\*Indicates new member 1997-98



## MEMBERSHIP STATS.

160 FULL  
18 FAMILY  
9 YOUTH  
3 HONORARY  
1 PENDING  
191

## HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership?

Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club...

contact Mike Tannenbaum, K2BN, for details.

## CORRECTION

N2NNA's packet address was incorrectly reported in last month's *Blurb*.

The correct one is: [n3nna@n3naa.#nemd.md.usa.noam](mailto:n3nna@n3naa.#nemd.md.usa.noam)

## NEW DIRECTORY

With this issue you received your 1998 P.M.R.C. Directory. If there are any errors in your listing please let me know, and the corrections will be printed in this column next month. The revised listing will also appear in the fall supplement.

**"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"**—for the courtesy ♪!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Net Control stations should read the following announcements before asking if there are any more announcements for the net.*

- On **April 1st.** the Directors' meeting will be held at the home of W3GQD.
- Regular monthly VE testing will take place at The Franklin Institute on Thursday, **April 2nd.** at 6:30 P.M. The 1998 ARRL VE test fee is \$6.35, but there is no charge for the novice test.
- This month's General Meeting will be held on **April 8th.** when our program will be all about the **Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service.**
- Don't miss your chance to win an Alinco dual-band radio. Only 200 tickets are available for purchase at \$10 each. The proceeds will help to fund this year's club picnic. Details are in this month's *Blurb*.

**Come to a Phil-Mont meeting,  
and see what all the talk is about!**

## GOODIES

60 foot aluminum tower with foldover hinge at base tapering tower with two thrust bearings masting from low rotor mount thru bearings .....asking \$300  
Hernan Miranda, N3YGG—215-533-3152  
FBO PMRC: Collins 30L1 amplifier with manuals and spare 811s ..... 500  
Steve Hoch, WU3I—215-535-8061

**W3BBB HEADS  
SOUTH AND LEAVES  
RICK WITH HOUSE  
PLANT DUTY!**



**WIN A STATE OF THE ART ALINCO DR-605T  
MOBILE/BASE RADIO**  
DUAL BAND • 2-METER & 440 • CROSS-BAND  
OPERATION  
100 MEMORIES • 50 WATTS VHF • 35 WATTS UHF  
INTERNAL ANTENNA DUPLEXER • MULTI-  
SCANNING FUNCTIONS • MARS CAPABLE  
INDEPENDENT VHF/UHF  
TX-RX INDICATORS • PLUS MANY MORE  
FEATURES

**ONLY 200 CHANCES WILL BE SOLD. DRAWING TO  
BE HELD AT THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO  
CLUB MEETING - JUNE 10, 1998 - 7 PM AT THE  
FRANKLIN INSTITUTE SCIENCE MUSEUM, 20th &  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY - PHILADELPHIA  
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW...ONLY \$10 each  
MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:  
PMRC • BOX 88 • ABINGTON PA 19001  
(Please include a self addressed stamped envelope.)**

## The PREZ SEZ

Russ Stafford, W3CH



**H**ello all you Phil-Monsters, Well, it looks as if Spring is just about here, and all of those outdoor projects will soon be getting done. I'm sure Chris and I will manage to get the yard work done, and the flowers planted. I just love a nice looking yard.

On club business, Komwell (KC3DH) has submitted his resignation from the club, and the Directors accepted it at their March meeting.

H.D.J. Security Service donated and installed a Fire and Security system for the PMRC building, and Central Station Monitoring Service, Inc. has donated the monitoring of the system. This should help keep our repeater safe and sound.

This month is MS Walk time, and hams are needed! Phil-Mont members will be staffing the Center City, Valley Forge and Ridley Creek Walks. There is a form here in the *Blurb* that you must fill out, and send in immediately, if you want to help. Remember to do your part. Come on out for the day. If you have never participated in public service be-

fore, this is a great event to give you your start. It's a small event, and you can easily learn what to do; we are all happy to show you the ropes. Then you will be ready to take on the big events, such as the MS150 City to Shore in September <smile>.

Speaking of MS... more than 37 Phil-Mont members put away more than 25 pizzas at the MS THANK YOU Pizza Pig-out party. This was MS's way of saying thank you to all the Hams who help year after year on their events.

After many years of leading the hams staffing the medical units on the MS150 City to Shore, Ben (KA3WWK) has stepped down. He has done a fine job for many years, and I'm sure he will be missed. Art (N3LCV) will be stepping in, and taking over as the Ham in Charge of the medical stuff. Thank you Art. Art has been on the event for many years, and will do a fine job at this new task, as he does with everything that he is called on to do.

*Continued on page 6*

## General Meeting Program:



## UPCOMING

- Apr 1 Directors' Meeting at  
W3GQD's
- Apr 2 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute
- Apr 8 General Meeting Program  
R.A.C.E.S
- ~ ~ ~

- May 6 Directors' Meeting at  
K2BN & WA2BTB's
- May 7 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute

- May 13 General Meeting Program  
Modern paging  
Rescheduled from February

## HAMFESTS

- Apr 5 TRENTON, NJ  
Delaware Valley RA
- Apr 25 WARREN COUNTY, NJ  
Cherryville Repeater Assn.
- Apr 26 NEW CASTLE, DE  
Penn-Del ARC
- May 3 WRIGHTSTOWN, PA  
Warminster ARC
- May 15-17 DAYTON, OH  
Hamvention
- July 12 KIMBERTON, PA  
MARC's "Valley Forge Hamfest"
- Jul 26 TIMONIUM, MD  
BRATS
- Sep 13 GAITHERSBURG, MD  
Foundation for Amateur Radio
- Sep 13 TRENTON, NJ  
Delaware Valley RA

## V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must two means of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1998 test fee is \$6.35; there is no charge for a Novice test.

- **THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**  
Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q  
215- 879-0505 day, 215- 448-1139 24-hours
- **BELLMAWR, NJ**  
Diane Nafis  
609-227-6281
- **BRISTOL**  
George LeNoir  
215-943-4886
- **LINWOOD, PA**—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)  
Russ Stafford, W3CH  
610-631-3401 x902
- **NORRISTOWN**  
Raymond Patton  
610-279-1897
- **TELFORD**  
Joseph Burgess  
215-723-6697
- **UNIVERSITY OF PA**  
Jeff DePolo  
215- 898-8538 shack, 215-337-7383 home
- **WARMINSTER**  
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ  
(215) 343-3494
- **WILMINGTON**  
Giselle Walls  
302-478-2757

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP 610-323-1050  
aa3ep@aol.com  
Russ Stafford, russ@hdj.com

MS Walk (formerly Super Cities Walk)—  
April 19 & May 3 (see page 7 for more details)

CoreStates USPro Cycling Championship—  
June 7

## April Fool: W3AA TO CLOSE! W3CH

No joke! In its April issue *WorldRadio* printed that our station at The Franklin Institute would be closing! As I read it I just could not believe it. In fact, I thought it was an April fool's article. Well, it was not.

After making a few phone calls I eventually reached a conclusion. Some information was taken from our own *Blurb*, BUT not the complete story. (i.e., a headline reads "MAN EATS DOG" then you read the story and it's about a guy who found some great hot dogs.)

Well, the truth of the matter is that one of our local hams sent a message to a buddy in New York who used to live in this area. He wrote back asking for more information. He then asked one of our members at a club meeting in Holmesburg, and was given wrong information. That bad information was forwarded to New York where it was published on an e-mail type newsletter. *WorldRadio* picked up on it and printed it. This unverified, erroneous article will be corrected. The adjacent notice was sent to various publications.

The bottom line is that if a question, pertaining to the club, is asked of any member, for any publication, it should go to Dick, W3RM, our publicity chairman. That is one of his many jobs with Phil-Mont, so please let him do his job. ☺

cooking duties (well some anyway), and will be along on Saturday to provide the goodies. Last year the cost was \$10 for Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday breakfast and lunch. We won't know the exact cost till we know how many people, and what exactly we prepare. Suggestions

## W3AA REMAINS ON THE AIR

Thanks to efforts of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, The Franklin Institute Station in Philadelphia will remain on the air. According to Club President Russ Stafford, W3CH, discussions have been taking place, and the station will be available to visitors at the science museum.

The upper floor currently has the astronomy and ham radio display. Visitors from around the world have visited the station. Earlier reports had the station becoming an inactive exhibit. The most recent meetings with Institute officials indicate the station will remain an active exhibit.

Originally licensed in 1952 as W3TKQ, this continuously active exhibit has demonstrated to countless thousands of visitors, young and old, the exciting modes of radio communications available to licensed amateur radiooperators.

Following its total renovation in 1991, the station was rededicated to its educational purpose by the late Mrs. Gioia Marconi Braga, the daughter of Guglielmo Marconi, "the father of radio." A team of volunteers from the club keeps the station on the air during museum hours.

For further information on the station, you can check out W3AA's Web site at: <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>. ☺

accepted (considered). We have laptop computers for each of the positions for logging.

Of course any suggestions and help is welcome.

Steve WU3I ☺



## DX Report

Joe Pearlstein, NU3Y

**4S7 - SRI LANKA** Now through the end of May look for HB9BRM signing 4S7BRM. QSL to his home call.

**8Q - MALDIVES** IK5MDF will be active from the Maldives May 2nd to 8th signing as 88Q7DF. Activity will be on 80 through 10 meters. For more info visit his web site: <http://www.qsl.net/ik5mdf>

**A3 - TONGA** K8VIR will be active as A35VI during April and May. Concentration will be on the IOTA frequencies: 14.260 and 21.260 MHz.

**CN - MOROCCO** Look for F5LMK signing as CN/F5LMK May 9th - 16th. The operation will be limited to SSB, 80 - 10 meters only.

**EP - IRAN** EP3GI is QRV the rest of this month and next, 20 & 40 SSB only. QSL to EA5XV.

**JT - MONGOLIA** I1JQJ, IV3SFG, I0SNY, I0TIC, I8NHJ, IZ0AEH AND IK0FUX will be operating around the clock as JT1Y from April 7th - 14th. Activity will be on SSB, CW, and RTTY. QSL via I0SNY.

**TT - CHAD** F5JJK is QRV as TT8JE until May. QSL via F6FNU direct only.

**ZK2 - NIUE** HB9BCK will be signing as ZK2CK from April 2nd to 16th.

Was anyone fortunate enough to work the guys on Spratly Island in the South China Sea last month? I've been waiting for this DXpedition for a while. I only heard them on 80 and 40, but they were only working JAs (Japanese hams) at that time. I couldn't spend enough time in the saddle here, as I was recovering from a hernia operation. I envy those of you who did manage to work them. Anyway, happy hunting, from NU3Y. ☺

## FIELD DAY 1998

Yes, Field Day. Here it is April, and only two months to go. I have been contacted by very few who have said they are participating. There is a short list, and I must know if you are coming—and when. I must know what meals you will be having with us, and purchase the necessary amount of food.

The reservation is in with the park, and the fee has been waived. I need to coordinate a media release for Field Day to get the 100 bonus points.

The place remains the same: Fort Washington State Park June 27 and 28. The Tower Crew will arrive Friday the 26, after 2 P.M., to erect the towers and beams. The crew will stay overnight at the site for security purposes. Contact me if you also wish to set-up your antennas on Friday. We still need one straight section of Rohn 25 for the last tower (Herb N3OLK has one we can borrow, but we're still looking). We have a 15M monobander from Bill WA3NSP, and a 10M monobander from W3CH. For 20M we will use a Mosley CL33 donated by KA3BET. Band captain for 75/80 has antennas from last year. Band captain for 40 can contact me if no antenna is available. Still looking for an 8-wire Hygain Telex CDE rotor control box. Band captains (don't everybody step up at once) are as follows:

75/80—W3CH, 40/20—WU3I, 15—WA3NSP, 10/2—packet—W3AOK, Satellite—KF4I&W3STW.

We want to run a "6A" site, and have the generators from W3LEN to help that along. All stations will be set-up along the same site plan developed by Chris, Dick and Rick last year (why change a good thing?).

N3FTC will be relieving me of the



## MINUTES

### MARCH DIRECTORS' MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary



The March Directors' Meeting was opened at 8:04:31 P.M. by Russ (W3CH). The following Officers and Board members were present: Russ (W3CH), Carol (N3PVO), Mike (K2BN), Steve (WU3I), Dick (W3RM), Ed (KB3IV), Gene (N3XKE) and Al (W3STW).

The following committees reported.

**TREASURER** - Mike (K2BN) reported that during the month of February we took in \$823.55, which brings us year-to-date a little less than \$3,000 taken in, of which we have spent \$253.07. Net change in funds was \$570.48. Compared to last year, we are a little bit behind with money taken in, and have spent a little more. The cost of the repeater move so far was a little over \$2,000. Bottom line is we have money in the bank.

**Blurb** - Jack (W3IIM) read the list of people to whom we send complimentary issues, and it was agreed to continue to send to those on the list. Jack also announced that the time has come for him to retire as the editor of the *Blurb*, and would like the Board to search for a replacement by the end of the year.

**MEMBERSHIP** - Russ (W3CH) reported one applicant to vote on for membership, David Anderson (N3NNA). A motion was made and approved by the Board to accept the applicant into membership. Welcome to Phil-Mont, Dave.

**OLD BUSINESS** - Ed (KB3IV) reported that he still needs a few more jacket buyers, before he can place an order. Contact him if you would like to order a Phil-Mont Radio Club jacket.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Russ (W3CH) read a

letter from Kornwell Chan (KC3DH). Due to some indiscretions on the repeater, and against several members of the club, Kornwell Chan has resigned from the club, and said that he would not use any of the club frequencies. A motion was made and approved to accept his resignation. The group went on to discuss the way we accept applicants into membership. Nothing definite was agreed on, other than the need to get to know prospective members a little bit better before voting them into membership.

Al (W3STW) suggested, and brought up for a motion, giving two free memberships as a door prize, thus a motion was made and approved to offer two free memberships as door prizes at the December Meeting.

Rick (N3DHI) read a letter from Jim (W3BBB) regarding the possible need for an insurance policy covering the repeater equipment and housing. After a discussion among the group, the consensus was we have more than enough in the treasury to cover the expense, but Dick agreed to look into the cost of the insurance.

With no more business to discuss, and due to the late hour, the meeting was closed at 10:14 P.M. by Russ (W3CH). Thanks to Chris McCormick (N3JHR) for hosting the meeting. ☺

W3AA has a new BBS. It is still on 144.89, but it is now running F8BBS ver 7.08! It is now a full-service BBS with for sale and worldwide mag's on it. You can connect via PMRC or W3AA. Stop by for a visit.

## MINUTES

## MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary

The 575th General Meeting of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club was opened at 8:11:04 P.M. by Russ (W3CH) after having time to socialize, and plenty of pizza to eat.

The following committees reported.

**TREASURER** - Mike (K2BN) reported that we have money, and are about on-budget for this time of year. We have seen an increase in our funds of about \$600. Year-to-date we are up about \$2500. We should have enough money to get through the year because we are right on budget.

**FIELD DAY** - Steve (WU3I) reported good news: Fort Washington State Park will not be charging us the usual fee for use of the park that weekend. He is still looking for band captains and volunteers. If interested in participating contact him.

**PROGRAMS** - Charlie (AA3EP) announced that April's meeting program will be a speaker from R.A.C.E.S. May's meeting will be the rescheduled speaker from February on modern paging.

**REPEATER** - Rick (N3DHI) reported in lieu of the 'Senior', all to be in good working order. Occasional interference has been occurring, please be patient. The Center City, Broomall and Southampton offsites are working fine.

**SKYWARN** - Art (N3LCV) said that a meeting was held at the weather station. The Marple-Newtown repeater (147.195) is listed as a secondary frequency, and Phil-Mont (147.030) listed as primary frequen-

cy. Also for those who do not know, Bucks County R.A.C.E.S. is now on the 145.350 frequency. As a point of interest, all the fancy news media weather reports are pulled from the information given out by NOAA. Art also advised not to call-in unless you witness unusual weather. Contact him for more information.

**PUBLIC SERVICE** - Charlie (AA3EP) repeated that the dates of the MS Walks are April 19 & May 3. If interested in helping out contact either Russ or him. The Hershaw Rotary Bikeathon will be held April 26. Contact Bob (W3YLT) if you can provide assistance for that event.

**SUNSHINE** - Steve (WU3I) said that both Irv Miller (K3KNH) and Joe Pearlstein (NU3Y) are on the mend.

**VE TESTING** - Jeff (KE3UV) told us that 12 candidates took tests with about a 50% passing rate.

**WELCOME** - Charlie (K3CJ) welcomed 37 members and 7 visitors.

**YOUTH** - Stefanie (KE3ZY) called the youth "lazy!"

**NEW BUSINESS** - Russ (W3CH) discussed the article which appeared in *WorldRadio*, about the closing of W3AA. He has been in touch with the author who will print a correction in the next issue.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8:36 P.M. by Russ (W3CH), and the floor turned over to Charlie (AA3EP) who introduced us to the people from the MS Society. ☺

cellular systems, not a replacement. While a few people may buy subscriber units that only operate through the Iridium system, most will buy a dual-phone. Dual-phones have both a standard cell phone and an Iridium phone inside. Since much of the circuitry is common, the size is not much bigger than a standard cell phone (but much bigger than the new miniature ones).

When you are in range of a terrestrial base station, the phone operates through the terrestrial system. If the terrestrial system is busy, or unserviceable, or you are out of range (our case), then the call is routed through the Iridium system. This has many advantages.

The first advantage is that Iridium service will be offered through the cellular companies. Many have already signed up. This makes it easy to have one bill for all use. Second, satellite telephone companies often require large deposits. Since an iridi-

um phone is a consumer device, it is likely that the deposit, if any, will be smaller. Finally, it should be possible to obtain equipment and service at many outlets.

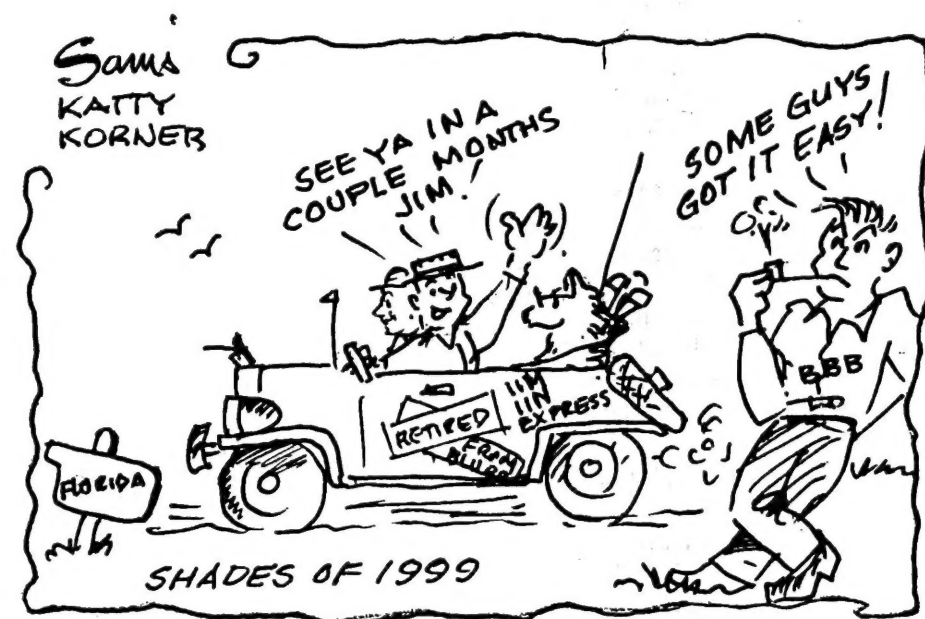
Oh yes, Iridium also does paging. So, you can just have an Iridium pager, if you do not want two-way service.

Motorola, the company I work for, was the inventor of the Iridium concept and founder of the Iridium LLC. Since then, about eighty percent of it has been sold to government and other large investors world wide. Iridium LLC is a publicly traded company that is totally independent of Motorola. They have a nifty web site; point your browser at-

<http://www.iridium.com>

While the Iridium system is the "original" and so far the only such system to fly, you can bet that there will be lots of competition in this industry from which to choose.

End part two ☺



## Satellite Communications

Maurice Nunas

*This is part two of three on satellite communication. The previous one dealt mostly with GEO satellites. This one deals exclusively with Iridium, a LEO constellation. Iridium is not the only LEO system. There are lots of others. But, if you understand Iridium, you understand the others. What you DON'T understand though is that LEO satellite systems, like GEO, have many uses. So, just because it is "LEO" does not mean that it will give good communications offshore.*

### Part Two—The Iridium System

The Iridium system is a constellation of 66 satellites in polar orbit, arranged in six planes of 11 satellites each. Over half of them are already launched and the system is working. It will be available for commercial use at the end of the year (1998).

Each satellite passes over the earth's surface from the North Pole to the South Pole in 50 minutes 14 seconds. To visualise this, think of a peeled orange as being the earth. Eleven satellites zip around each of the little lines between the orange segments, completing a revolution in about 100 minutes.

Each satellite contains a bunch of radio repeaters. If you know how a cellular radio network works, think of it as an extremely large cellular network in the sky. In fact, the technology used between the subscriber unit and the satellite is based on GSM, the same system used for cellular throughout the world (except for most of North America).

The satellite's proximity to the earth permits communication with small, low powered telephones, offering all the features of the cellular telephone handset that we now take for granted. These include fax,

call hold, call waiting, voice mail and so on. Data is also offered, but compared to today's modems, email will be a bit slow, as the data rate is 2400 baud.

Here's how it works. When you make a call, your signal goes to the nearest satellite. Some account verification is done (just like cellular), then your call is routed from satellite to satellite until it reaches the satellite closest to the destination of your call. There, it goes into a gateway station, which is connected to the telephone system. The telephone rings just as it would if you were using a wired telephone. It is exactly like using a cellular telephone.

By the way, the message going from satellite to satellite is one thing that makes the Iridium system unique (for now at least). In GEO systems, and in most other LEO proposals, the signal goes up to the satellite, then right back down to the ground (to a gateway station). GEO systems can do this because their footprint illuminates huge portions of the globe. I am not sure how other proposed LEO systems can offer coverage at sea, as there will be no gateway systems in the middle of the ocean—not a problem for most people, but something that any passagemaker needs to consider.

But how can it work with moving satellites? As you chat, the satellites are zipping around the earth, into and out of your coverage area. When the ones carrying your call are out of range, the call is automatically handed off (i.e., re-routed) to satellites that are coming into range. It is a lot like talking on a cellular system while moving in a car, except that with Iridium, the cell stations are moving and we are stopped. Hey, don't quibble—compared to a satellite moving from pole to pole in less than an hour, even jet boats are, for all intents and purposes, standing still.

Iridium is an adjunct to the world's

## MS WALK SCHEDULE

Join the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in celebrating its 10th Annual MS WALK (formerly Super Cities Walk) on April 19th and May 3rd. Become a volunteer Ham to provide support to the walkers. Help the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in its ongoing mission to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis. We welcome any new volunteers at one of the MS WALK's eight sites in the Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey regions. For more information. Contact Charlie, AA3EP, or Russ, W3CH

### Location

### Contact

### 1997 Participants

#### Sunday, April 19, 1998

\*Valley Forge National Park (Chester Co. Pa.) ....KE3RL .....1,028  
Tyler State Park (Bucks Co. Pa.) .....AA3AI .....984  
\*Ridley Creek State Park (Delaware Co. Pa.) .....W3CH .....1,784  
Moorestown (Burlington Co Nj.) .....K2QWQ .....631

#### Sunday, May 3, 1998

\*Phila Museum of Art (Phila. Pa.) .....AA3EP .....1,879  
Kardon Park (Chester Co. Pa.) .....N3RUK .....351  
Main St. Voorhees (Camden Co Nj.) .....KA2YKN .....987  
Linwood Park NJ Shore (Atlantic Co Nj.) .....TBA (SPARC) .....367

These events are relatively small, and we are finished by early afternoon.

## Add to your wardrobe

National Multiple Sclerosis Society will supply tee shirts to all the hams who help on the MS WALK. MS stopped giving out tee shirts a few years ago, on the small events, due to the high cost of the shirts. The tee shirts given to the hams for the MS150 City to Shore are purchased by sponsors, not the MS Society. In order to receive a shirt, you must fill out the form provided here in the *Blurb*. If you are planning on volunteering for this event, please fill-out the form, and return it as soon as you can. There is no blank space provided for the tee shirt size, so write your size in the lower right-hand corner.

\* Remember that PMRC is staffing Center City, Valley Forge and Ridley Creek.

### Continued from page 3

If you live in the City of Philadelphia, and would like to join R.A.C.E.S, Gene (N3XKE), and a few good hams in the city, are putting the R.A.C.E.S back together, and are looking for help. Remember, when the (you-know-what) hits the fan it's R.A.C.E.S that will be the communications for the area.

In closing, I would just like to ask all of you to make an effort to join-in, and

volunteer this year. Let's keep our bands the way they are, and not have someone take them away because we don't put them to good use. Rag chewing on a repeater is not considered good use, in the eyes of the FCC, nor the public. Always remember that volunteering for a good cause will help someone in need, as well as make you feel good about yourself.

73 de Russ, W3CH ☺



## DEADLY VIRUS IN THE WILD!

A recently posted file (sysinfo.exe) is an insidious and deadly VIRUS! also known as the fatcat virus. Due to its tendency to eat mice, this is the most indestructible virus known to man! Under NO circumstances should you download this file, as this virus is self-replicating, and will infect at least 12, and up to 18 mice no matter what you do.

No anti-virus program has yet been able to eradicate all traces of this vile, extractor-type virus, and cases of the anti-virus program being infected and ultimately mutated by this virus have been recorded. What this means is that the virus will actually copy a small hidden file onto your anti-virus disk, and this will then be activated everytime the anti-virus program is used. Worse yet, by electromagnetic induction pulse, it will also infect any disk stored within 15 feet of the affected disk. Do NOT simply try to dispose of the infected disk by throwing it away—you never know what other disks it will come to within 15' of, and transfer its stealth program to.

So far the only absolutely sure way to get rid of all data on an infected disk has been shown to be a combination of intense heat and extreme pressure, and only one company in the world has been able to create these conditions which GUARANTEE complete destruction of the virus. This company is called "macrohard c.c." and any affected disks, hard-drives or even cd-roms can be sent to them.

Once your disk has been successfully destroyed by the above measures, the resultant product will be returned to you, so do not forget to include your full POSTAL address! The returned product's size varies from 0.01cm. (for a 5½ floppy) to 1.12cm (for a 6.4 gig hard drive). ☺

These are some of the new releases of up coming events for public service events.

Events...Volunteers needed! Sunday-April 19, 1998...MS Walkathon at Tyler State Park, 8:00AM 'til approximately 2:00PM; we will be meeting at the Newtown Jr. High School Saturday, April 26, 1998... University of Pennsylvania, Collegiate Bicycle Race in Philadelphia. (See Buff KF2PM for more information.) Sunday, April 26, 1998... March of Dimes America at Core Creek Park in Langhorne, PA. (Lower Bucks County) Meet at Core Creek Oarj at 7:30AM be prepared to stay all day 'til approximately 2:00pm April 26, 1998 Sunday...University of Pennsylvania, Collegiate Bike Race Finals...See Buff KF2PM for location and meeting times. 4 operators needed for this event. Saturday...June 27, 1998 Willow Grove Air Show many operators needed. Sunday...June 28, 1998 Willow Grove Air Show, many operators needed. These two events are very grueling, brown bag lunch from base is provided, hats, sunscreen, water and good walking shoes are necessary along with HT and extra batteries.

June 27 & 28 is also Field Day weekend. Be sure to come out and participate phone or CW. July 4, 1998...volunteers needed for fire works display and parade at Cheshaw Park, bring family and picnic at the park while doing emergency communications. The Warminster Club sponsors this event. MS150 Bike Race, City to Shore-September 26 & 27, 1998. This is a two day event! More information will be available soon!

On the back burners...cooking right now is on May 2, 1998... A Major Mass Casualty Drill for Lower Bucks County involving Boy Scouts, Coast Guard, Fire and Police Rescue, hospitals, hazmat units, and RACES. Are you interested? Keep those dates clear for the future; your radio skills may be needed. Give back to ham radio a little bit which has been given to you. More information will be available if plans are approved! Please contact Ellen, AA3AI at 215-968-6758 or e-mail at HYPERLINK mail to:Ellenaa3ai@aol.com or Arthur, N3LCV at 215-698-1606 or e-mail to:

Aweiner@fast.net. Come on everyone! Join the fun and volunteer. Meet old friends and make new ones! Hone your radio skills while having fun.

## PACKET RACKET

### Part Two

Albert McFadden, N3XEI

Many of us are still trying to remember those long packet addresses. Did you know that the FBB BBS keeps track of several thousand addresses? It probably knows better than you do exactly where your ham friend wants his mail sent. A great deal of mail is delayed by entering an incorrect address, or worse, it could be lost all together. To help our readers understand the danger of miss-addressing a packet, I will explain the whole process.

This message was received on my system today.

From: W3ZQY@N3ACL.#SEPA.PA.USA.NOAM  
To: N3XEI@W3CH.#SEPA.PA.USA.NOAM

The FBB software keeps track where our mail should go by a process known as Hierarchical Routing, and it breaks up your packet address according to your [Home\_BBS.Local\_area.State.Country.Continent].

Every single message that enters the network carries this information. It also shares it with every other BBS in the world to some extent. In this example the message entered the system at N3ACL (a fine system). The first thing the N3ACL computer wants to do with this message is figure out where to send it. So it breaks-up the message into its components, and decides that the message should go to N3XEI, which is my Home\_BBS at W3CH in Southeastern PA. USA.North America. But my home BBS is here at N3XEI, not at W3CH. This presents a problem. N3ACL knows that my Home\_BBS used to be at N3XEI, but assumes that I must have changed it to W3CH—why would a human lie?—so it happily sends my message to W3CH in-

stead of to N3XEI. Meanwhile it broadcasts a message telling every BBS on the planet that N3XEI has moved to W3CH. Fortunately in this case W3CH knows who I am, and sent me the message (not all systems would do this). Meanwhile it also assumes Gee... XEI must have changed his home BBS... I better alert all the other BBS' on the planet earth so his mail doesn't get lost.

So the process happens the same at every BBS the message passes through on its way to me. Now every message that is destined for me goes to W3CH, but what if the message had been addressed this way?  
SP N3XEI @ K3HD

A sysop somewhere would have to intervene, and figure out who I am, and who is K3HD. They may not know that K3HD is no longer in service, and in that case the message could end up days late, or not at all. The closest he can pinpoint my location is somewhere in southeastern PA, and it's a big place. In that case it could end up somewhere in this quarter of the state, hoping that somebody in this area knows where to send my mail, since it cannot go to K3HD.

Then another sysop may have to figure out where to send it if it doesn't know that K3HD is off the air, and so on and so on... kinda like passing the buck. But don't panic just yet; we can attempt to fix it by sending a message addressed correctly, and by the same process the network will again know just exactly where your home BBS is (probably). But, beware some system somewhere still thinks I'm @ W3CH.

When sending personal mail just use SP {CALLSIGN}. If the BBS doesn't know the address it will ask you to provide one. Please be careful when addressing your mail, and don't change your home BBS unless you have to. ☺



# 155<sup>TH</sup> MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS MARCH

13 candidates took 19 elements  
3 new amateurs plus 3 upgrades

VE team members:

Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman

Lee Pamplin, N3EKR; Thom Scott, KF4I; Jim McCloskey, KE3OP;  
James Davis, KE3RL; Jeff Kerber, KE3UV; Bob Freer, W3YLT

AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST  
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE  
SCIENCE MUSEUM

For Information Call ND3Q at  
(215) 448-1139 or 879-0505

Accessible by the handicapped.



## W3IIM announces retirement. W3CH to take-over!



EDITORS COME N' GO BUT THE BLURB GOES ON

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The International Voice of The Franklin Institute Science Museum

The Camp-In dates for April are the following evenings in April: 3-Friday, 17-Friday\*, 18-Saturday, 24-Friday. If you can help-out contact Jenn Seva at 448-2195 by the Wednesday prior to the date.

\* Denotes an all-female night (males may not spend the night). The requested hours are 6 to 10 P.M. You may stay all night to work rare DX if you wish, but not on the all-female nights.

## VOLUNTEERS

Many will be shocked to find, when the day of judgment nears, that there's a special place in heaven, set aside for Volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners, satin couches and footstools, where there are no committee chairmen, no yard sales or rest-area coffee to serve.

No library duty or bulletin assembly, there will be nothing to print or staple, not one thing to fold and mail, telephone lists will be outlawed.

But a finger snap will bring cool drinks and gourmet dinners, and rare treats fit for a king.

You ask, "who'll serve these privileged few, and work for all they're worth?" Why, all those who reaped the benefits, and not once volunteered on Earth.

Credit: Dear Abby Reader Bob Bigley Cincinnati, Ohio of The Athens County Historical Society and Museum Bulletin.

I clipped the above article some time ago from the paper, and found it appropriate now in our time of uncertainty with the museum. For those who read of our demise in *WorldRadio* Magazine let me quote, "The reports of our demise are greatly exaggerated."

There has been correspondence to Bob, WA3PZO, to correct the articles that have been published. Watch for them.

REMEMBER: W3AA IS YOUR STATION. STOP DOWN AND PLAY SOMETIME!!!

—Steve Hoch, WU3I

# REPORT

Internet: <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>

1998

APRIL

1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> DIRECTORS' MEETING at W3GQD's	<b>2</b> 156 <sup>th</sup> LICENSE EXAM Session at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 p.m. <i>sharp!</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>  2M NCS WB3KOJ 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS W3PWG Daylight Saving Begins Palm Sunday	<b>6</b> ←Trenton Hamfest	<b>7</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3AOK	<b>8</b> GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Good Friday	<b>11</b> ○ Passover <del>Blue</del> Deadline!
<b>12</b> 2M NCS KB3IV 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS W3STW Easter	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 2M NCS N3FTY 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS N3JDM MS Walk 1 of 2	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM WA3NSP	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Arbor Day	<b>25</b> Cherryville Hamfest
<b>26</b> ● 2M NCS WA3NSP 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS KB3IV Horsham Rotary Bikeathon New Castle Hamfest	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3AOK	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		If you aren't leading the pack, the view never changes.